





Atty. Dkt. No. 054804-0101

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Ladlow et al.

Title:

PARALLEL REACTION

STATION WITH MAGNETIC

STIRRING

Appl. No.:

09/509,147

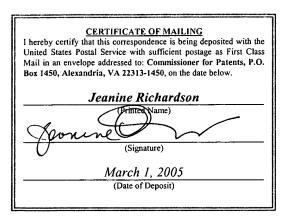
Filing Date: 05/25/2000

Examiner:

B. Gordon

Art Unit:

1743



RESPONSE TO REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner included a Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance. The Examiner stated: "[t]he prior art of record does not teach nor fairly suggest the adaptor block and magnetic stirrer as claimed by the applicant. See Board of Appeals decision 09/28/2004." Applicants wish to clarify any ambiguity in this statement.

While the Examiner has stated that the prior art does not teach "the adaptor block and magnetic stirrer", Applicants respectfully point out that independent claim 1 does not claim a magnetic stirrer. Claim 1 reads:

A device comprising an adaptor block for seating on a laboratory magnetic stirrer and having a recess in a base thereof for receiving an upper portion of the stirrer, the adapter block containing fixing means for holding a plurality of reaction vessels, wherein when the adaptor block is co-operatively positioned on a magnetic stirrer within a magnetic field, with the center of each vessel distributed around the recess outside the periphery of the recess.

Thus, claim one is directed to a device which includes an adaptor block, but does not include the limitation of a "magnetic stirrer." This is consistent with the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences' opinion (see, e.g., page 12).

If the Examiner disagrees with Applicants' statements or wishes to discuss them, Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact their representative Michael Rechtin (312-832-4586).

Respectfully submitted,

Date March / 2003

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 27433 Telephone:

(312) 832-4586

Facsimile:

(312) 832-4700

Michael D. Rechtin

Attorney for Applicants

By Michael S. Kecks

Registration No. 30,128

Matthew E. Martin

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 53,274